

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended)      A method of applying an uncut transparent, protective overcoat to a surface of a printed transparency, the method comprising:

10      uniformly applying heat and pressure to a section of a donor web, the donor web having a carrier side comprising carrier ribbon material and a transfer side comprising transparent protective overcoat material, wherein the heat and pressure facilitate release of the transfer side of the section of the donor web from adhering to the carrier side of the donor web and facilitate transfer  
15      of the transfer side of the section of the donor web to adhering to the surface of the transparency,

wherein the donor web is unrolled from a source roll upstream and taken up by a takeup roll downstream, the source roll and takeup roll tensioning the donor web, and torque from the takeup roll pulling the donor web to release  
20      the transfer side of the section from the donor web to adhere to the surface of the transparency,

and wherein the released transfer side of the section of the donor web, defined by edges where the heat and pressure are uniformly applied on the section, is cleanly separated at the edges from the carrier ribbon material without  
25      trimming;

and while heat and pressure is applied, the section of the transfer side is positioned against the surface of the transparency, the transparency being supported by a base comprising a surface material resistant to adhering to the section of the transfer side.

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Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2, wherein heat is applied to the section of the transfer side by a heating element applied to a section of the carrier side of the donor web adjacent to the section of the transfer side.

5 Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 3, wherein pressure is applied to the section of the transfer side by controlled contact between the heating element applied to the section of the carrier side and the base supporting the transparency, the donor web and the transparency being sandwiched between the heating element and the base.

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Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein pressure is applied to the section of the transfer side by controlled contact between a pressing element applied to a section of the carrier side of the donor web adjacent to the section of the transfer side, the donor web and the printed transparency being  
15 sandwiched between the pressing element and the base.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the pressing element comprises at least one roller element.

20 Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the pressing element comprises at least one die element.

Claim 8 (canceled)

25 Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the surface material is selected from the group consisting of a fluororesin coating, a fluorocarbon coating, and a fluoropolymer coating.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the surface material is  
30 selected from the group consisting of (poly)-tetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), ethylene chlorotrifluoroethylene (ECTFE), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), their derivatives, and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the surface material is silicone oil.

5 Claim 12 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein heat is applied to only a subsection of the section of the transfer side, so that only the subsection to which heat is applied adheres to the surface of the printed transparency.

10 Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein pressure is applied to only a subsection of the section of the transfer side, so that only the subsection to which pressure is applied adheres to the surface of the printed transparency.

15 Claim 14 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the section of the transfer side has at least one of a surface width greater than the surface's surface width and a surface length greater than the surface's surface length, so that only a subsection of the section adheres to the surface, the subsection having a surface width equal to or less than the surface's surface width and a surface length equal to or less than the surface's surface length.

20 Claim 15 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base comprises at least one roller.

25 Claim 16 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base comprises a platen.

Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transfer side of the donor web comprises more than one layer.

30 Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one layer of the transfer side comprises thermoplastic resin material.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin material is selected from the group consisting of acrylic, polyolefin, polyester, their derivatives, and combinations thereof.

5 Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one layer of the transfer side comprises a barrier layer resistant to penetration by liquid and air.

10 Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the barrier layer comprises a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinylidene fluoride, their derivatives, and combinations thereof.

15 Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier side of the donor web comprises more than one layer.

20 Claim 23 (original) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one layer of the carrier side is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic resin material and high-density tissue.

Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the thermoplastic resin material is a polyester.

25 Claim 25 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the section of the transfer side transferred to adhering to the surface has a surface finish selected from the group consisting of matte finish and gloss finish.

30 Claim 26 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein, when the section of the transfer side is transferred to adhering to the surface, at least one textured pattern is stamped onto an exterior surface of the section .

Claim 27 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein, when the section of the transfer side is transferred to adhering onto the surface , at least one textured

pattern is applied onto an exterior surface of the section.

Claim 28 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the section of the transfer side transferred to adhering to the surface has improved features selected  
5 from the group consisting of matte uniformity and gloss uniformity.

Claim 29 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the section of the transfer side transferred to adhering to the surface improves durability of the at least one surface through addition of at least one of indoor light fade resistance, ultraviolet light fade resistance, resistance to liquid penetration, resistance to  
10 vapor penetration, scratch resistance, and blocking resistance.

Claim 30 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the section of the transfer side transferred to adhering to the surface improves durability and quality of  
15 the printed image of the at least one surface through addition of at least one of dry time optimization, optimization of the adhering of the section of the transfer side to the surface of the printed transparency and optimization of release of the section of the transfer side from adhering to the carrier side of the donor web.

20 Claim 31 (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the carrier side of the donor web further comprises a lubricant layer as an exterior layer of the carrier side, the lubricant layer preventing wear of a surface of the heating element coming in contact with carrier side of the donor web.

25 Claim 32 (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the transfer side of the donor web further comprises a release layer as an interior layer of the transfer side adjacent to the carrier side, the release layer facilitating release of the section of the transfer side from adhering to the carrier side of the donor web.

30 Claim 33 (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the transfer side of the donor web further comprises an adhesive layer as an exterior layer of the

transfer side, the adhesive layer enhancing adhering of the section of the transfer side to the at least one surface of the printed transparency.

5 Claim 34 (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the heating element is selected from the group consisting of a heated roller, a heated die element, a ceramic heater element, and thermal print-head elements.

10 Claim 35 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one surface of the printed transparency further comprises a layer that optimizes adhering the section of the transfer side to the at least one surface of the printed transparency, the adhering to the at least one surface being strong enough to facilitate release from the adhering of the section of the transfer side to the carrier side of the donor web.

15 Claim 36 (currently amended) A protective overcoat for a printed transparency, the transparent, protective overcoat made by the method of claim 1.

20 Claim 37 (currently amended) A printed transparency having a transparent, protective overcoat made by the method of claim 1.

25 Claim 38 (currently amended) A donor web providing an uncut transparent, protective overcoat to a printed transparency, the donor web having:

a) a carrier side comprising a carrier ribbon layer and a lubricant layer as an exterior layer preventing wear of a surface of a heating element or pressing element, the surface coming in contact with the carrier side of the donor web;

b) a transfer side comprising a transparent, protective overcoat material, a release layer as an interior layer adjacent to the carrier side, the release layer facilitating release of the transfer side from the carrier side by uniformly applying heat and pressure to a section that will become the transparent, protective overcoat to the printed transparency, the section that will become the transparent, protective overcoat having no predefined edges but having edges defined, without trimming, by where the heat and pressure

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are uniformly applied on the section; and an adhesive layer as an exterior layer of the transfer side, the adhesive layer enhancing adhering of a section of the transfer side to form the transparent, protective overcoat on the printed transparency

5           and while heat and pressure is applied, the section of the transfer side is positioned against the surface of the transparency, the transparency being supported by a base comprising a surface material resistant to adhering to the section of the transfer side.

10   Claim 39 (currently amended)   The donor web of claim 38, wherein there is more than one layer of transparent, protective overcoat material in the transfer side.

15   Claim 40 (currently amended)   The donor web of claim 39, wherein at least one of the layers of transparent, protective overcoat material comprises a barrier material.

Claims 41-78 (canceled)

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